

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CHRISTOPHER KINNEY

Criminal Case No. 1:18-cr-00068-WES-PAS

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) & (B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States and Defendant, CHRISTOPHER KINNEY, have reached the following agreement:

**1. Defendant's Obligations.**

a. Defendant will plead guilty to the following Counts:

- **COUNT I:** Using means of interstate commerce to entice a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity, 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b);
- **COUNT IV:** Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4);
- **COUNT VI:** Possession of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4).

b. Defendant further agrees that the time between the filing of this plea agreement and the scheduled date for the change of plea is excludable under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161.

c. Defendant further agrees to forfeit all interest in all visual depictions described in 18 U.S.C. § 2252 and in any asset or property, not including any real property, used or intended to be used to commit or promote the offenses charged in the Indictment that Defendant owns or owned, including but, not limited to, all computers,

tablets, cellular phones, and any other digital media seized from Defendant and found to contain child pornography, or any such items used to facilitate or commit the crimes listed in the indictment. Defendant warrants that Defendant is the sole owner of this item of property, and agrees to hold the United States, its agents, and its employees harmless from any claims whatsoever in connection with the seizure or forfeiture of property covered by this agreement. Defendant also agrees to waive all interest in any such property or asset in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, federal or state. Defendant agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. Defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the Government to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding. Defendant acknowledges that all property covered by this agreement is subject to forfeiture as a visual depiction under the offenses charged in the Indictment or as property used or intended to be used to commit or promote the offenses charged in the Indictment.

**2. Government's Obligations.** In exchange for Defendant's plea of Guilty:

- a. The government will recommend that the Court impose a term of imprisonment within the range of sentences for the offense level determined by the Court under the United States Sentencing Guidelines (the U.S.S.G. or "guidelines") or the

mandatory minimum term of imprisonment pursuant to statute, whichever term is greater, but not including probation or a "split-sentence," even if permitted under the guidelines.

b. For purposes of determining the offense level, the government agrees to recommend a two-level reduction in the offense level for acceptance of responsibility under § 3E1.1(a) of the guidelines if Defendant continues to demonstrate acceptance of responsibility through sentencing.

c. As of the date of this agreement, Defendant has timely notified authorities of an intention to enter a plea of guilty. If the offense level is 16 or greater and Defendant enters a plea of guilty pursuant to this agreement, the government will move the sentencing Court for an additional decrease of one level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)(2), unless Defendant indicates an intention not to enter a plea of guilty, thereby requiring the government to prepare for trial.

d. The government is free to recommend any combination of supervised release, fines, and restitution which it deems appropriate.

e. Upon being sentenced pursuant to the terms of this agreement, the government will move to dismiss the following Counts under Rule 48 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:

- COUNTS II & III: Production of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a);
- COUNT V: Receipt of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4);

3. Defendant understands that the guidelines are not binding on the Court, and that, although the Court must consult the guidelines in fashioning any sentence in this case, the guidelines are only advisory, and the Court may impose any reasonable sentence in this matter up to the statutory maximum penalties after taking into account the factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

4. The United States and defendant stipulate and agree to the following facts under the guidelines:

- a. On the dates referenced in the indictment, Defendant used a computer or interactive computer service to persuade, induce, or entice someone whom he believed to be a minor to engage in prohibited sexual contact;
- b. Defendant used a computer or interactive computer service to possess between 10 - 150 visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, some of whom were prepubescent minors and toddlers, and some of which he distributed to others by email or through the use of mobile-phone messaging applications.

5. There is no agreement as to which Offense Level and Criminal History Category applies in this case. Except as agreed in the previous paragraph, both the United States and Defendant reserve their rights to argue and present evidence on all matters affecting the guidelines calculation.

6. The maximum statutory penalties for the offenses to which Defendant is pleading are:

**COUNT I: Using means of interstate commerce to entice a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity, 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b)**

**PENALTY:** a term of incarceration of at least 10 years up to Life; a term of supervised release not less than 5 years up to Life; a fine of \$250,000; a \$100

mandatory special assessment and an additional \$5,000 mandatory special assessment (per 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a)).

**COUNT IV: Distribution of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)**

**PENALTY:** a term of incarceration of at least 5 years up to 20 years; a term of supervised release not less than 5 years up to Life; a fine of \$250,000; restitution; a \$100 mandatory special assessment and an additional \$5,000 mandatory special assessment (per 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a)).

**COUNT VI: Possession of Child Pornography, 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)**

**PENALTY:** up to 10 years of imprisonment, but up to 20 years of imprisonment if involves a minor not over 12 years of age; a term of supervised release not less than 5 years up to Life; a fine of \$250,000; restitution; a \$100 mandatory special assessment and an additional \$5,000 mandatory special assessment (per 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a)).

7. Defendant agrees that, after Defendant and Defendant's counsel sign this plea agreement, counsel will return it to the United States Attorney's Office along with a money order or certified check, payable to the Clerk, United States District Court, in payment of the special assessments. Failure to do so, unless the Court has made a previous finding of indigence, will relieve the government of its obligation to recommend a reduction in the offense level under the guidelines for acceptance of responsibility.

8. Defendant is advised and understands that:

- a. The government has the right, in a prosecution for perjury or making a false statement, to use against Defendant any statement that Defendant gives under oath;

- b. Defendant has the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea;
- c. Defendant has the right to a jury trial;
- d. Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel – and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel – at trial and every other stage of the proceeding;
- e. Defendant has the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses; and
- f. Defendant waives these trial rights if the Court accepts a plea of guilty.
- g. Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable or deportable offenses, including those to which Defendant is pleading guilty. Likewise, if Defendant is a naturalized citizen of the United States, pleading guilty may result in denaturalization as well as removal and deportation. Removal, deportation, denaturalization, and other immigration consequences are the subject of separate proceedings, however, and Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is his removal or deportation from the United States or his denaturalization.

h. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison as a condition of supervised release pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d). Defendant also understands that independent of supervised release, he will be subject to federal and state sex offender registration requirements, and that those requirements may apply throughout his life. Defendant understands that he shall keep his registration current, shall notify the state sex offender registration agency or agencies of any changes to defendant's name, place of residence, employment, or student status, or other relevant information. Defendant shall comply with requirements to periodically verify in person his sex offender registration information. Defendant understands that he will be subject to possible federal and state penalties for failure to comply with any such sex offender registration requirements. Defendant further understands that, under 18 U.S.C. § 4042(c), notice will be provided to certain law enforcement agencies upon his release from confinement following conviction.

9. The government reserves its full right of allocution, including the right to present any information to the Court for its consideration in fashioning an appropriate sentence, the right to correct misstatements, misrepresentations, or omissions by Defendant, and to answer any questions asked by the Court.

10. Except for paragraphs 2 & 4, above, the parties have made no agreement concerning the application of the guidelines in this case.

11. Defendant understands that the Court alone makes all sentencing decisions, including the application of the guidelines and the sentence to be imposed. The Court is not bound by the parties' stipulations of fact, offense level adjustments, or the government's recommendations. The Court is free to impose any sentence it deems appropriate up to and including the statutory maximum. Defendant also understands that even if the Court's guideline determinations and sentence are different than Defendant expects, Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw Defendant's plea of guilty.

12. Defendant hereby waives Defendant's right to appeal the convictions and sentences imposed by the Court, if the sentences imposed by the Court are within or below the sentencing guideline range determined by the Court. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), and the government retains its right to appeal any of the Court's sentencing determinations.

13. This agreement is binding on the government only if Defendant pleads guilty, fulfills all Defendant's obligations under the agreement, does not engage in any conduct constituting obstruction of justice under § 3C1.1 of the guidelines, and does not commit any new offenses. Defendant understands that if Defendant violates this agreement in any way, the government shall be released from its obligations under the agreement and will be free to make any recommendations that it deems appropriate. If that occurs, Defendant shall not have the right to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.

14. This agreement is limited to the District of Rhode Island and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecutive authorities.

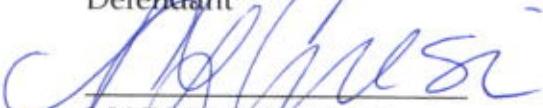
15. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No other promises or inducements have been made concerning the plea in this case. Defendant acknowledges that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced Defendant to enter this agreement. Any additions, deletions, or modifications to this agreement must be made in writing and signed by all the parties in order to be effective.

16. Counsel for Defendant states that Counsel has read this agreement, been given a copy of it for Counsel's file, explained it to Defendant, and states that to the best of Counsel's knowledge and belief, Defendant understands the agreement.

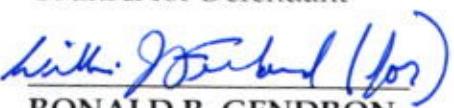
17. Defendant states that Defendant has read the agreement or has had it read to Defendant, has discussed it with Defendant's Counsel, understands it, and agrees to its provisions.

  
CHRISTOPHER KINNEY  
Defendant

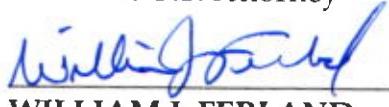
4/3/19  
Date

  
MARY JUNE CIRESI  
Counsel for Defendant

3 April 2019  
Date

  
RONALD R. GENDRON  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

4/4/19  
Date

  
WILLIAM J. FERLAND  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division

4/4/19  
Date